THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Proposal to make Sugar Industry more Competitive

1326. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sugar industry is fit to meet the global competition;

(b) whether Government are considering to delicence the industry; if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the sops given to the new sugar industries; if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government are considering to encourage the new sugar industries to go in for the latest technology to make them competitive; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) At present, sugar exports are being undertaken at a loss which is borne by the sugar factories themselves. Efforts are being made to further improve the efficiency of the sugar factories to reduce their cost of production.

(b) The present licensing policy, including the option of delicensing, is being reviewed. Until then, the present licensing arrangement, as notified vide Press Note dated 8-11-91, would continue.

(c) In order to make the new sugar projects, established at high capital cost, viable, a new Incentive Scheme has been formulated under which new sugar factories would be entitled to 100% free sale quota for 8 years in "High Recovery Areas" and 100% for 9 years and 66% for the 10th year in "Other Recovery Areas".

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. The standard specifications formulated by the Government for establishment of new sugar factories include latest equipments, like fibrizor, automatic cane feeding devices, rising/falling film evaporator, low head vacuum pans, continuous centrifugal machines, high pressure boilers etc. for attaining higher productivity.

Supply of Levy Sugar to Ration Shops

1327. DR. ISHWAR CHANDRA GUPTA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether levy sugar supplied to ration shops in various States are not in proportion to the number of cards resulting in much inconvenience to the public;

(b) what is the demand and supply of levy sugar of each State during the years 1992-93 and 1993-94; and

(c) what steps are being taken to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) to (c) With effect from February, 1987, a monthly